

Sullivan County NH

Type of meeting: Board of Commissioners Public Business Meeting

Date / time: Tuesday - Oct 11, 2005; 1:30 p.m. (Meeting began at 2PM)

Place: Newport - 14 Main Street, Commissioners Conference Room, 1st Floor

Meeting audio taped.

ATTENDEES: Commissioners Donald S. Clarke - *Chair*, Ben Nelson - *Vice Chair*; Ethel Jarvis - *Clerk*; Ed Gil de Rubio - *County Manager*; Michael Prozzo - *High County Sheriff*; Chuck Hersey - *County Forester*; Peter Farrand - *Human Resource Director*; *State County Delegates* Charlotte Houde-Quimby, Larry Converse, Joe Osgood, Peter Franklin and Beverly Rodeschin; James Lowe - *Argus Champion staff reporter* and Sharon Johnson-Callum (minute taker).

2:00 PM Board of Commissioner Chair, Donald Clarke, brought the meeting to order.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.A. SEP 20, 2005 PUBLIC MEETING

2:00 A motion was made by Commissioner Nelson to approve the Sep 20, 2005 Public meeting minutes as typed. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried, unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.B. SEP 20, 2005 EXECUTIVE SESSION - LITIGATION MEETING

2:03 A motion was made by Commissioner Nelson to approve the meeting minutes as typed but to embargo them until the issue was resolved. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried, unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.C. SEP 20, 2005 EXECUTIVE SESSION - CONTRACT ISSUE

2:04 A motion was made by Commissioner Jarvis to approve the Sep 20, 2005 Exec. Session Contract Issue meeting minutes as typed, and to unseal them. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried, unanimously.

Commissioner Clarke requested Sheriff Prozzo to provide an update on the flood impact around the county.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE – NOT ON AGENDA

Sheriff noted he spent 11 - 12 hours traveling through most of the county, visiting Washington, Lempster, Goshen, Unity, Newport, Claremont, Langdon, Acworth, and Charlestown, but had not had time to visit the other towns. He noted there was a lot road loss and came across 40-foot holes and craters with many bridges out. He noted towns were busy working yesterday on the problems. He noted all emergency services to his knowledge worked well together. He visited Alstead and noted the media pictures did not do the damage justice. He knew Cheney, State EMO, got generators into Alstead. As the Sheriff was leaving Alstead he met up with Massachusetts's power trucks and escorted back in to that area. Fatalities due to the flooding in Sullivan County included one man in Langdon and two young adults in Unity. Sheriff had made direct contact with NH DOT. He noted the mobile emergency command unit was used down on the Beauregard Bridge in Claremont and twelve radios from the unit were being used in Langdon.

2:10 Sheriff Prozzo left the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 COUNTY FORESTER UPDATE – NRCS WHIP FUNDS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Copies of the NRCS WHIP Project Summary Implementation Plan was disbursed to the Commissioners and County Manager (copy on file at Commissioners Office). Mr. Hersey discussed 2005 Fall work - brush hogging, to be done. He discussed 2006 brontosaurus work and costs and revenues associated with it. He noted the NH State Fish and Game representative noted the State is more than happy to come up with the County's match so would not require out of pocket expense from County. The work will rely on County labor. He discussed invasive species evaluation and management of. Commissioner Clarke expressed disappointed that the Mills Place brush hogging was not done. This will be discussed further with Facilities and Operations Director. Mr. Hersey noted educational opportunities would be worked into the upcoming projects.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 HUMAN RESOURCE UPDATE

Mr. Peter Farrand, Human Resource Director stepped up to the table.

REGIONAL TRAINING

Mr. Farrand disbursed copies of the State of NH Div. Of Human Resources, Bureau of Education and Training "Mission Statement" and information on training events. He noted, in the past the Bureau of Education and Training was non-mobile, but with renovations to the Sullivan County Ahern Building, Mr. Farrand contacted Dennis Martino (TI/College Associate Professor) to discuss providing training at the newly renovated facility. Farrand anticipates extending the training seminars to local municipalities on a semester certification program, four to five hours a week and is meeting Mr. Martina in November. They will then contact local communities to inquire on what training events would be of interest. The County Manager requested Farrand to

extend the invitations to towns and school districts. Mr. Farrand noted the State has the capacity for training 25 at a time.

ARTICLE XXXII EMPLOYMENT OF RELATIVES (NEPOTISM)

Mr. Farrand provided the Commissioners and County Manager with a draft of a new article to add to the Employee Manual "Article XXXII Employment of Relatives (nepotism". The group reviewed the draft.

2:24 A motion was made by Commissioner Nelson to adopt the proposed Article XXXII. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. Discussion: County Manager asked Farrand if Department Heads/Elected Officials had seen the article. Farrand indicated no. County Manager feels it needs clear intent and suggested tabling the item until intent is in and copies are given to all Department Heads/Elected Officials. Commissioner Nelson withdrew his motion.

2:25 A motion was made by Commissioner Nelson to table the decision on Article XXXII until the next meeting. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. There was further no discussion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried, unanimously.

Commissioners, minute taker and County Manager discussed items upcoming, including additional conflicts with the Oct 25th meeting previously rescheduled. The group decided to cancel the Oct 25th meeting, and to reconvene October 18th, Tuesday.

ARTICLE XXX SMOKING POLICY

Mr. Farrand discussed NH State Title 12 RSA 156 Smoking. One of the items is that no smoking can take place within 25 feet of vent, door or window of public facility. He noted Valley Regional and Dartmouth were watching and waiting to see what Sullivan County decides. Farrand discussed the cost of \$3,400 associated with employee smoking. The County Manager is working up cost on changing the motorcycle pad at the Nursing Home, to a bus stop type smoking area - unheated. Additional information will be brought to the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 COUNTY MANAGERS REPORT

CLAREMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT PROPOSAL

The County Manager noted the Claremont Police Department approached the County, requesting to use vacant County buildings they heard were up for possible demolition. They would like to use a building for strategic training practices and asked for the County to keep them in mind.

TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT UPDATE

The United Way held a Transportation Summit two weeks ago, which was well attended by various state commissioners, senators and local delegates. What became clear was that Sullivan County is a typical county with many fingers going out depending on the

need; as time continues, the needs increase, funds dwindle and volunteers are relied on more. United Way will be doing strategic planning and would like the County to be there to formulate direction on public transportation. The County Manager discussed young people that attended the summit who spoke of their reliance on public transport to get them to their place of employment.

NHAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

The County Manager noted he found it helpful and appealing to see the State-County representatives attend the NHAC conference, and noted he spoke to Representatives Ferland, Cloutier and Jillette, who all attended, and they indicated they enjoyed the conference and came away with a lot of helpful information. The County Manager recommends continuing to budget for delegation representation at the conference. The County Manager noted there were several awards received by Sullivan County, of which the *NHAC County Team Award* was presented to the Commissioners Office staff Janice Bryk, Laurie Geer, Sharon Johnson-Callum and Dodi Violette. The State Legislator Award was presented to Senator Bob Odell. Commissioner Clarke noted the NHAC County Administrator of the Year Award was presented to Ed Gil de Rubio.

Rep. Rodeschin discussed legislation being submitted for volunteers in communities; and the assistance they will need to pass it. She noted if seniors are encouraged to stay in their homes they need to find the means to help implement the policies.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 COMMISSIONERS REPORT

SEP 6, 2005 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES – CONTRACT ISSUE

3:05 A motion was made by Commission Jarvis to unseal the minutes from Sep 6, 2005 2:53 Executive Session - Contract Issue. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried, unanimously.

NHAC CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Commissioner Nelson discussed a NHAC disaster seminar he attended. He requested the County Manager to have Superintendent Hagar brief County Department Heads/Elected Officials and supervisors on emergency procedures of the DOC, and to keep them up to date. The County Manager noted, with the media coverage of Nursing Home evacuations, he would have Courtney Marshall provide an analysis on evacuation procedures. Commissioner Nelson also discussed the Medicare drug program seminar, separation of services of State vs. County and discussions coming up. It was noted Rep. Fred King was meeting with a group this afternoon to discuss the language of the bill.

Rep. Rodeschin noted the diversion bill was being held up because of 683.

Commissioner Clarke noted there was a letter/disclosure form needed by auditors that required the Chairs signature. This form pertained to the County Audit/Management Letter.

3:15 A motion was made by Commissioner Nelson to authorize the chairman to sign the disclosure form. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Jarvis requested Johnson-Callum scan and e-mail them a copy of the signed form. Johnson-Callum noted she would do so. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried, unanimously.

Rep. Peter Franklin asked if DOC overcrowding was still a problem. The County Manager noted it was, and that the intent of the trip to the NIC Conference at the end of October was to discuss the problem.

Rep. Franklin noted he wants a copy of the September census.

.. Dates of when they [MS42 forms] were sent to DRA. The County Manager was unsure specific dates, but noted he would get that for Rep. Franklin.

Rep. Charlotte Houde-Quimby requested an update on nursing staff recruitment. The County Manager does not have specifics, but will have that available at the Unity meeting from the Nursing Home Administrator.

3:20 A motion was made by Commissioner Nelson to set the next Board of Commissioners meeting for Oct 18th in Unity at the Nursing Home. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried, unanimously.

3:21 A motion was made by Commissioner Clarke to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried, unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



*Ethel Jarvis, Clerk
Board of Commissioners*

EJ/s.j-c.